## United States Environmental Protection Agency Criminal Investigation Division Investigative Activity Report

**Case Number** 

same day called

that it wasn't that bad.

0605-0052	•
Case Title: Southwest Rice Mill	Reporting Office: Baton Rouge, LA, Resident Office
Subject of Report:	Activity Date:
Interview of District Fire Chief	July 28, 2011
Reporting Official and Date:	Approving Official and Date:
SA 02-SEP-2011, Signed by: SA	SAC 06-SEP-2011, Approved by: , SAC
SYNOPSIS  The Baton Rouge Resident Office is conducting an investigation of the discharge of oil into B	
On Thursday, July 28th, 2011, Special Agents Environmental Protection Agency- Criminal Investigation Department District Chief	and of the Division, interviewed Crowley Fire
On Thursday, July 28th, 2011, Special Agents Environmental Protection Agency- Criminal Investigation Department District Chief The interview to Louisiana Fire Department, specifically 104 West Hutchir agents identified themselves and displayed their credential	ok place at the City of Crowley, ason Avenue in Crowley, Louisiana. The
has served with the Fire Department for twenty-six capacity of District Chief. On Saturday, May 28th, 2011, Bayou Blanc, a local waterway. responded to the ca and traced the source back to a large unnamed ditch that leadjacent to railroad tracks leading to the Southwest Rice May 10 to 10	received a call regarding an oil spill in all and followed the oil in Bayou Blanced to a metal tank. The tank was situated
observed that a large body of water had gathered are tank. A trench had recently been dug from the rails to a new believed to be intended for draining the water from the rail existed another trench that had been recently dug, which redirection of the SRM. The observed that this trench was leaking tank. The followed the trench in the direction of terminated by a pile of dirt placed in the trench. The start the oil from flowing back to the SRM.	earby ditch, which stated that area. Immediately next to the tank an from the large ditch and led in the filled with oil due to its proximity to the the SRM and observed that it had been
began to contact local facilities to determine the res	sponsible party for the spill. At 4:52 on the

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the area of the tank and spoke with stated that stated that arrival to meet with was the first time that had actually observed the spill and said that employees had told

the owner of the SRM.

knew about the incident with the tank and that knew about the spill.

advised that

reported to

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advised that had been having trouble with the rail spur to the SRM and sent employees to clean the area up. While cleaning the area, employees came into contact with
the tank, thereby causing the spill. denied that the spill was bad because
employees told that it wasn't. further stated that the spill had occurred on Friday, May
27th, 2011. commented to the agent that did not believe that information to be correct due
to own estimation of the local rainfall. believes that the water in the main ditch would not
have been enough to flush the oil out.
On Monday, May 30th, 2011, arrived at Stine, a local hardware store, and spoke with employees to determine if had returned the excavator used to dig the trenches near the spill site. retrieved a copy of Stine invoice # 230183, which revealed the following:
Stine employees advised that had returned the excavator with a dark fluid splattered on the boom and with the excavator bucket being detached, but clean. learned that had advised an unknown employee that had experienced trouble in replacing a
busted hydraulic line, but that had fixed it. secured a photograph of the excavator, which was still on the original trailer and condition in which it was returned.
supplied the agent with a series of photographs that secured at multiple locations to include the site of the spill, oil-affected areas and Stine. The photographs are being maintained in the case file.